



STORIES SEEN THROUGH A GLASS PLATE FROM SUFFRAGE TO CITIZENSHIP 15 DECEMBER – 4 JANUARY

An Edward Reeves Archive Project exhibition in partnership with Lewes Town Council marking a hundred years since the 1918 general election.

It tells the stories of the campaigners in Lewes: suffragists, suffragettes and anti-suffragists, and shows portraits by Benjamin Reeves of women who voted for the first time on 14 December 1918. The display is enhanced with images sourced from other archives.

E. Reeves

REEVESARCHIVE.CO.UK

The Edward Reeves Studio in Lewes is believed to be the oldest continually operating photographic studio in the world. Today it houses an amazing archive of images which provide a unique record of the daily life of Lewes and the history of commercial photography. It currently houses 150,000 glass negatives and around 200,000 other photographs. The studio is now run by Tom Reeves, the great grandson of Edward Reeves, with his wife Tania Osband.

The Edward Reeves archive project was conceived and is led by Brigitte Lardinois, Director of the Photography and Archive Research Centre based at LCC, University of the Arts London.

The project relies on the support of the many volunteers who have come forward to make this unique archive accessible. Led by Kathryn Tollervey, the digital curator, they are digitising the business ledgers in order to make the 150,000 glass plate archive searchable. Kathryn and her team have now successfully transcribed all the business ledgers of the period 1910-1920, which has enabled us to do the research for this exhibition as well as for the previous *Stories Seen Through the Glass Plate exhibition 1914-1918: Lewes Remembers*. This exhibition can still be accessed online at www.reeveslewes.com

A team of volunteers also research the stories behind the photographs. The research for this exhibition was led by Dr Diana Wilkins, who built on previous research done by local historian Frances Stenlake.

Other volunteers help by constructing light boxes and installing the exhibitions as well as organising related community events.

We urgently need more people to help with the digitisation of the business ledgers as this is the only way to unlock this important photographic archive. This work can be done at home, transferring scanned images of the handwritten ledgers into an Excel sheet. Any offer of help, even just a few hours here and there, is welcome. Should you be interested in joining the team, please email info@reevesarchive.co.uk

FROM SUFFRAGE TO CITIZENSHIP

17 DECEMBER 2018 – 4 JANUARY 2019
MONDAY-FRIDAY, 9 AM – 5 PM. ADMISSION FREE

LEWES TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, LEWES

BAXTER CORRIDOR

An exhibition tracing the people and places involved in the debate in Lewes about women's right to vote.

ENTRANCE HALL

Portraits of the twelve women who have been Mayor of Lewes, mostly taken by Edward Reeves Photography.

RELATED EVENTS:

Saturday Open Day

Saturday 15 December 2018

Equality FC stall, suffrage photos, plus the chance to register to vote. 11-4pm, Yarrow Room & Baxter Corridor, Lewes Town Hall, High Street, Lewes. Free event

Tourist Information Centre Display

Friday 14 December – Thursday 21 December 2018

Commemorating the centenary of women's right to vote, Tourist Information Centre, 187 High Street, Lewes, BN7 2DE

Lewes History Group talk by Dr Diana Wilkins

10 December 2018

Tracing the suffrage story in detail using images from the Edward Reeves Archive and the LSE Women's Library. Kings Church, Brooks Road, Lewes, BN7 2BY, 7 pm for 7.30-9 pm
£1 for members, £3 for non-members.

Illustrated talk by Sonya Baksi

4 January 2109

International Suffragettes: linking nations for the vote and for peace.
Council Chamber, 7.30

E. Reeves

ual: london college
of communication



FROM SUFFRAGE TO CITIZENSHIP

The general election of 14 December 1918 was a landmark in British democracy. For the first time, some women were able to vote, along with millions more men, tripling the size of the electorate.

The demand for women's voting rights gathered pace at the turn of the twentieth century, led by a mass movement of peaceful Suffragists. However, frustration at the slow pace of reform led to the rise of a smaller group of militant Suffragettes. Women's right to vote was opposed by Anti-suffragists. All three groups were present in Lewes.

This exhibition looks at the struggle that led to women winning the vote. It tells the stories of local people who campaigned for and against the vote.

While many women voted for the first time in 1918, millions of other women were still excluded. Those under thirty and poorer women, including many in lodgings or domestic service, had to wait until 1928 for the right to vote.

As the First World War drew to a close, nine thousand local women added their name to the electoral register. This project encouraged local people to ask how their family might have been involved in this campaign. This exhibition brings some of their stories to light.

The right to vote was accompanied by changes that allowed women to become councillors, mayors, MPs and peers. In Lewes, the first woman councillor was elected in 1920, the first woman mayor in 1963, the first woman MP in 2015 and the first mayor from an ethnic minority in 2018. Unfortunately, a century after the first women got the vote women are still underrepresented at all levels of UK government.



[Q22154]
Gladys Beard
first able to vote aged 34



[Q23504]
Grace Vinal
first able to vote aged 49



[H8807]
Susannah Glandfield
first able to vote aged 31



[H8623]
Ellen Fletcher
first able to vote aged 47

Cover Image: [H4843]
Eva Stewart-Jones
first able to vote aged 34

1914-1918 LEWES REMEMBERS

The Stories Seen Through a Glass Plate exhibition shown in 2016 and 2017 as light boxes in the streets of Lewes, dealt with life in the town during the First World War. The exhibition, complete with an audio-visual trail is still viewable online on www.reeveslewes.com. The *Lewes Remembers* exhibition relates directly to the current exhibition *From Suffrage to Citizenship*. Many soldiers who had gone to fight did so without having a vote in the country they were defending. Women who had been campaigning for equality and the vote stepped in to do jobs formerly done by men, as well as nursing the injured. The injustice of their exclusion from voting was addressed after the end of WW1; all men and some women voted for the first time in the General Election in December 1918.



The Lewes Remembers exhibition inspired a moving community event.

On Remembrance Sunday 2017 a vigil was held at Lewes War Memorial. Based on research done for the 2016 exhibition about Lewes life in the First World War, 236 volunteers of the same age as the fallen listed on the War Memorial walked with a lit torch from the home addresses of the casualties. At the Memorial, as the name, address and cause of death was read out, they doused their flames. A cordon of 100 women surrounded the men.

This Edward Reeves Archive project event was organised in partnership with Lewes Town Council and the seven local bonfire societies. 500 volunteers were involved.

For logistical reasons the numbers attending this vigil had to be kept to a minimum. In order to share the event a short film was made, and a second additional film explores the impact this event has had on the local community, notably the many young people who took part in the vigil. These films are now available on DVD from the Edward Reeves Studio, 159 High Street, Lewes BN71XU.